

Water Quality Advisory Group  
August 11, 1999  
Room 1319

**Minutes**

Board members present:

John Fekete, Tom Anderson, Bill Beranek, Representative Dale Sturtz, Tom McKenna, Mayor Sonya Margerum, Beth Admire, Bowden Quinn, Ron Wukasch, David Hensel, Michael Jordan, John Wilkins and Rae Schanapp.

Audience:

Jane Dustin, Claudio Ternieden, Tonya Galbraith, Mary Uhler, Glenn Pratt, Charlotte Read, Scott Schutte, Matt Greller, Blake Jeffery Maggie McShane, Melanie Darke, Cliff Duggan, Miriam Dant, Kari Simonelic, Mary Ellen Gray and Vince Griffin.

Introductions

Lori Kaplan

- Triennial Review major policy issues
  - special designations and antidegradation
  - wet weather and use designations
  - sediment and biological water quality criteria
- Come to some conclusion on these issues within the next four months if possible
- Do not duplicate the efforts of the Water Pollution Control Board

Ground Rules:

- Keep an open mind
  - Know and state bottom line as soon as possible
  - Final recommendations within four months
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- John Fekete, Ispat Inland Steel, will chair the group

John Fekete

- Intention is to have open conversation on policy issues

Ground Rules:

- No IDEM bashing
  - Respect for each other
  - Encourage all comments
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- Suggestion: break into smaller groups to work together to obtain answers quicker

Matt Rueff

- Review of slide presentation
  - special designations and antidegradation
  - wet weather and use designations
  - sediment and biological water quality criteria

## **Discussion on major issues:**

Jane Dustin: - The policy, regulatory and historical federal regulations for use designations involve stringent regulations, including use attainability analysis and public participation. These steps must be taken to change Outstanding State Resource Water's to a lower tier.

Charlotte Read: Anti-degradation dischargers want to increase discharge exemptions/exceptions with cross pollutant training. Is that the intent?

Rae: We need to add detail to issues already here.

- Fishable use - protect aquatic community. This does not protect reproduction of aquatic community or people eating the fish.

- Anti-degradation special designation - 1990 Water Quality Standards Outstanding State Resource Waters to be protected without degradation. We are backing away with new Triennial Review version of the rule. It is difficult to have an anti-degradation policy throughout the state.

Sediment narrative criteria: Because GLI changed the standard from total metals and total cyanide to free metals and free cyanide, we need to have sediment criteria.

John Wilkins: Why do we need sediment criteria? What is the goal? We should focus on high level policy issues.

John F:

- We should focus on these issues:
  - real technical issues, numerical issues
  - interactions, growth-economics, designations, impacts
  - we will have three more meetings.
  - let's take three topics and discuss these next month

Bill Beranek: We need to do a triage. What can we add of value? Think small rather than large.

- Outstanding State Resource Waters issue is one thing we should focus on. The WPCB is stuck on this issue.

- Wet weather - technical group can resolve and they can come up with solutions. They won't need us.

- Narrative biological and sediment - what clarification does that bring? What implications of strength? What different behavior do we want to happen? We could do some good with this.

Rae: Difficult to separate all issues. Don't want to limit ourselves too much. All three of these issues are in SB 343. Use designations and special designations would be good to tackle.

Mayor Margerum: Develop some criteria and goals we all agree on. Establish goals and then sort out details. Develop anti-degradation goals.

Representative Sturtz: Some of these things are being worked on already. Need to find a balance. Going to be a short session - my suggestion is keep the list short.

Charlotte: Special designations - what will we bring to this that no one else has? Are there agriculture issues?

Ron: Sediment criteria - no attainment. How improve what solutions imposed to correct issue. What happens next if they don't meet standards?

Jane: Do we believe that biological and sediment criteria will help with Water Quality Based Effluent

Limits?

Does it overlap with reasonable potential? Put importance and need for biological and sediment criteria in rule.

Rae: Use and special designations - Special designations so much around Lake Michigan. Agree with Mayor Margerum and establish goals for these issues.

Bill: Use designations is not an issue. We should manage special designation bodies of water

Other issues raised during discussion:

- Chlorine byproducts
- Agricultural/Non-point source pollution
- Total maximum daily loads
- Mercury

John: Final comments:

- Follow through and have goals for three issues
- rearrange order
  - special use designations
- Matt and staff - regulatory status
- Bill - put together papers on use designation and distribute next meeting
- Charlotte: review perspective on where we've been
- IDEM: Set goals for each issue. Have a draft within the next two weeks, distribute and have comments returned before next meeting.
- Next meeting will be September 8, 1999